

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-6, 8-17 and 23-46 are active in this application. Claims 12, 16, 17, 28, and 39 are amended to clarify the plant as a tobacco plant and that the environmental stress as high salt conditions, drought conditions, or both. Claims 45 and 46 have been added, which are similar to Claims 39 and 40 but dependent on Claim 13. No new matter is added.

Claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17, 23-27, 29-31, 33-35, 37-38 are allowed.

Applicants thank Examiner Epps-Ford for the courteous discussion held with the Applicants' undersigned representative on October 6, 2003. During this discussion, amendments to address the rejection under 112, first paragraph were discussed. The amendments submitted here are reflective of that discussion.

The objection to Claims 16 and 17 is addressed by amendment.

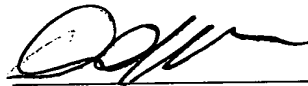
The rejection of Claims 12, 16, 28, 32, 36 and 39 is addressed by amendment.

Therefore, Applicants request the indication that Claims 12, 16, 28, 32, 36, 39, 45 and 46 are allowed with Claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17, 23-27, 29-31, 33-35, 37-38 and 40-44.

Applicants also request that this application be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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